

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for not including reference numbers 16, 22, 26, 60, and 60'. The specification has been amended to remove reference numbers 16, 22, 60, and 60'. Figures. 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 have been amended to include reference number 26. Removal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Regarding claims 34, and 51, Fig. 3 shows the wheelbase having an increased length in comparison to the wheelbase shown in Fig. 2. Claims 38, 40, and 55 have been cancelled. Regarding claim 47, Figs. 2 and 3 show an adjustable wheel base. Removal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 50 was objected to for an informality. Claim 50 has been cancelled and incorporated into claim 49 with the correction suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 34-38, 40, 47, 50, and 51 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 3, 34, 38, 40, 47, and 50 have been cancelled. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 34 and claims 35-38 depend from amended claim 31. Claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 47. Claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 50 and amended claim 51 depends from amended claim 49.

Regarding claims 34 (claim 31 as amended), 47 (claim 39 as amended), and 50 (claim 49 as amended), the specification at page 7 describes how the wheel base adjusts with the corresponding extension and retraction of the expansion portion. Exemplary expansion portion 12' is rigidly coupled to bed 26 which is coupled to rear wheels 18. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, exemplary expansion portion 12' is telescopically coupled to cab 19 which is coupled to front wheels 18. During telescopic movement of exemplary expansion portion 12', front and rear wheels 18 move apart to adjust the length of the wheelbase. It is unclear why the examiner references the "drive train, wiring, and plumbing" of the vehicle as these feature are not recited in the claims. Furthermore, it is inherent to one of ordinary skill

in the art how to provide an expandable drive train (for example, a telescoping drive shaft) and expandable wiring and plumbing (for example, coiled, flexible wiring and tubing as commonly provided between a semi cab and a semi trailer). Regarding claims 35, the limitation requiring an increase in the "longitudinal length of the body" has been removed from claim 31.

The Examiner rejected claims 31-33, 39, and 41-46 over U.S. Patent No. 3,004,790 to Mayer. Claim 31 has been amended to include the limitation of cancelled claim 34, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claims 32 and 33 have been cancelled. Claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 47, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claim 41-46 depended from amended claim 39.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 49, and 52-54 over U.S. Patent No. 6,213,531 to Corey et al. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 50, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claims 52-54 depend from claim 50.

The Examiner rejected claims 4-5, 49, and 52-54 over U.S. Patent No. 6,517,135 to de Gaillard. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled. As mentioned above, claim 49 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 50, which the Examiner indicated as allowable, and claims 52-54 depend from claim 50.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 39, and 48 as being unpatentable over de Gaillard et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,858 to Bradford. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 47, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Claim 48 depends from claim 39.

The Examiner rejected claims 39 and 48 as being unpatentable over de Gaillard et al. in view of Bradford.

Cancelled Claims

Claims 3-5, 32-34, 38, 40, 47, and 50 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 3, 34-38, 40, 47, 50, and 51 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged.

New Claims

New claims 56-67 have been added. Claims 56-62 require "the wheel base of the vehicle increases during movement of the expansion portion from the retracted position to the extended position." Claims 63-67 require "the wheel base of the vehicle is adjustable between a first length and a second length that is greater than the first length." Consideration and allowance of these new claims is respectfully requested.

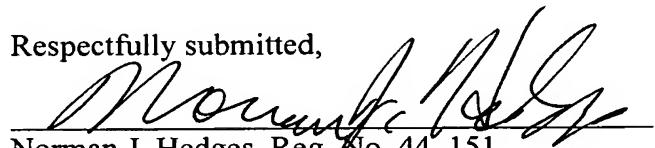
Final Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 31, 35-37, 39, 41-46, 48, 49, and 51-67 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time to effect a timely response. Please charge any additional fees or credits to the account of Baker & Daniels LLP Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,


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Amendments to the Drawings

Figures 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 have been amended to include a reference number 26 indicating a second side of cab 19 opposite first side 24 as shown in the replacement sheets of Figs. 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 provided in the attached Drawing Appendix.



DRAWING APPENDIX